



THE LEADER

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Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ www.grandforks.af.mil

Aug. 1, 2003



Maintaining the fleet

Aircraft maintainers work behind the scenes,
but their contributions are seen around the world

-- See Pages 12-13 for more

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Winners of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (July 2000 to June 2002)

Inside: **Passing of a legend**

Weekend weather

Friday	74/55	PM showers
Saturday	81/57	Partly cloudy
Sunday	82/58	Partly cloudy
Monday	83/59	Partly cloudy



Weather information courtesy
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

Page 2



Air Force represented

Page 7



Warriors shine at state games

Page 15



Pilot describes Baghdad crash

By Mr. Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) - Maj. Jim Ewald, a pilot with the 110th Fighter Wing out of Battle Creek, Mich., had just finished a close-air support mission over Baghdad when his A-10 Thunderbolt II was hit by an Iraqi surface-to-air missile April 8. It physically moved the plane "like the hand of God," he said during a Pentagon interview July 16.

The missile came up from the southwest, and he never saw it. But, he had no doubt a missile had hit him.

"I could see a reddish glow on my cockpit instruments from the fire behind me," Maj. Ewald said.

It was then that the airplane "departed from controlled flight," he said.

"That's just the way we say, 'I was trying to fly the airplane one way, but the airplane was off doing its own thing,'" the Michigan guardsman said.

"I was very fortunate to be flying this mission in an A-10, because had I not, I would have bailed out right there," he said. "My next thought was 'I don't want to bail out right over Baghdad, or I'm going to be in it deep.'"

He and his wingman headed out of Baghdad and sought American lines.

"It was physically hard (to fly the plane)," Maj. Ewald said. "I was manipulating everything with all the muscles in my body. I had flight-control problems. I had engine problems. I had fuel-flow problems. I had hydraulic problems... not

to mention that I had an airplane that was disintegrating. I looked back once, and I could see little parts falling off the engine, and I thought, 'I really don't know what that is, but I think I need it.'"

As he continued south, he lost one of the engines completely and ejected.

"The ejection seat was packed by one of my new best friends out of Boise, Idaho, and it worked perfectly," Maj. Ewald said.

After he hit the ground, he mistook the A-10's 30 mm rounds exploding in the burning airplane for incoming Iraqi fire. He ran to hide in a dried canal behind some reeds. He heard engine noise and hoped that the vehicle was American.

"I knew the 3rd Infantry Division had been in the area, but I didn't know if it was still there," Maj. Ewald said.

There were Fedayeen Saddam paramilitary forces still running around, he said, and he could not see very well.

"I heard one yell in English, but I thought maybe this guy went to language school," Ewald said. "Then I heard another voice yell in English, 'Hey, pilot dude. Come out. We're Americans.'"

There was no mistaking the accent.

"He sounded like your typical 19-year-old American," Maj. Ewald said. "I thought, 'That's something you don't learn in language school.'"

The soldiers were from the Army's 54th Engineer Battalion, and they had seen the major eject. They arrived some 10 to 15 minutes after he hit the ground.

Maj. Ewald went back to the 110th FW and was back into the cockpit within 48 hours.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Haggerty

'Thanks for the Memories'

Airmen around the world mourn the loss of Bob Hope, one of only two Americans ever to be made an honorary veteran of America's armed forces. He was 100. In this photo, Hope entertains the troops with a 10-minute monologue in 1990 after a ceremony to rename the Thunderbird Theater at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, as the Bob Hope Performing Arts Center. The ceremony honored Hope's 50 years of entertaining American armed forces around the world.



Action Line 747-4522

The Action Line is your avenue
for information about events and
activities on and around the base.

For questions about current events
or rumors, please leave a message.

100%

Mission effectiveness
rating for the week of
July 14 through 20

14

DWI-free
Days



Col. Keye Sabol
319th Air Refueling Wing
commander

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♦**Deadlines** -- Articles: Due by noon Thursday the week prior to publication. For any questions about submissions, call The Leader staff at 747-5019.

♦**Contact information** -- E-mail: leader@grandforks.af.mil, Phone: 701.747.5023

♦**Public Affairs** -- Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 319th ARW public affairs office. Copy submitted for publication is edited to conform to the Associated Press Stylebook and for length.

♦**Advertisements** -- Call the Grand Forks Herald at 701.780.1275 before noon Tuesday.

EMTFs - mobility support to 21st century warfighters

Editor's Note: The July 25 reorganization announcement incorrectly described the chain of command within the new Air Mobility Command structure. Beginning Oct. 1, AMC wings, the groups at Dyess, Robins and Little Rock Air Force Bases, and the Expeditionary Mobility Task Forces will report to the 18th Air Force commander.

The four Air Mobility Operations Groups and the enroute system will report through the EMTFs.

By Col. Dave Thurston
AMC Director of Public Affairs

On Oct. 1, Air Mobility Command's warfighting reorganization will transform the command's structure to ensure better mobility mission focus for today's expeditionary Air Force. According to AMC commander, Gen. John W. Handy, the result will be enhanced command and control.

"In the future, all presentation of forces to the warfighter will be through one numbered Air Force responsible for the Tanker Airlift Control Center, 12 wings, 3 groups, 2 Expeditionary

Mobility Task Forces and the enroute system," the general said.

The reactivated 18th Air Force will focus on presentation of those mobility forces to the unified commanders for execution of AMC's worldwide operational mission. The existing 15th and 21st Air Forces at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and McGuire AFB, N.J., will be redesignated as EMTFs.

But what is an EMTF and how does it fit into AMC's new architecture?

The new EMTFs are actually key to the execution phase of warfighting. Each of the EMTFs will be commanded by a general officer responsible for leading the efforts of AMC's four Air Mobility Operation Groups and their subordinate units providing worldwide expeditionary mobility support.

The EMTF will maintain administrative control over the AMOGs and ensure their appropriate representation and support.

Each AMOG can field professional multifunctional teams to extend existing AMC infrastructure through both in-place employment and rapid forward deployment to meet our nation's Global Air Mobility needs.

They can deliver on short notice mission-ready command and control, aerial port, and aircraft maintenance personnel to project and sustain combat forces worldwide.

The EMTF commanders will also play a vital role as deployable directors of mobility forces during contingency operations. As the DIRMOBFOR, the EMTF commander will serve as the designated agent for all air mobility issues in the area of responsibility or joint operations area, and for other duties as directed.

They will also exercise coordinating authority between the theater command and control nodes, the TACC, and the Department of Defense's joint movement center in order to expedite the resolution of air mobility issues.

The EMTF commanders' role is outreach focused, leading AMOG personnel from initial base assessment through full operational capability, anywhere in the world. Gen. Handy points out that the word "task" is already central to the way AMC conducts business.

"That's how we do it today - it's how an AMOG operates," the general said. "They get a task from the TACC and tai-

lor their resources to accomplish that specific task.

"The EMTFs will always be out there in peace or war. Their role is mobility. How do I create austere airfields out of nothing? How do I take a robust airfield and make it useful? That will be their expertise.

"They can go anywhere and do anything - they're organized under this one-star who's role is to look out there and say 'what can I do to help?'"

Redesignating the current numbered Air Forces to EMTFs provides precise focus on what Gen. Handy describes as "job number one" - warfighting.

The divestiture of redundant staff functions at the NAFs makes the EMTFs light, lean and agile while consolidation of command and control at 18th AF places centralized warfighting responsibility within a single command element. Gen. Handy says the end result is easily understood.

"The new construct makes it very clear to anyone who looks at the organization that we are part of a task force - it's expeditionary and the task is mobility. We can facilitate mobility in an expeditionary manner anywhere in the world."

Briefs

Major promotees

Congratulations to the following base officers on their selections for promotion to major:

- Capt. Matthew Enfield, 912th Air Refueling Squadron
- Capt. Scott Kulka, 905th ARS
- Capt. Patricia Lang, 319th Air Refueling Wing
- Capt. Chad Lynch, 911th ARS
- Capt. John Pantleo, 912th ARS
- Capt. Daniel Paul, 319th Operations Support Squadron
- Capt. Richard Stacey, 319th Comptroller Squadron
- Capt. John Swanay, 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Capt. Dennis Veeneman, 912th ARS
- Capt. Frank Virgadamo, 319th Mission Support Squadron

Public Notice: proposed multiple operations, maintenance, construction

An environmental assessment has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Council on Environmental Quality and Air Force regulations implementing NEPA to analyze the potential environmental consequences of multiple operation, and maintenance and construction projects at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota.

The EA analyzes potential impacts from the phased comprehensive repair of the airfield, renovation for a consolidated deployment center and demolition of the current facility, repair and addition to headquarters group offices, demolition of the heat plant, and construction of a wing headquarters facility on base.

The EA provides details of the action, explains the

purpose and need for the action, and assesses the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternative actions. The EA also analyzes the no action alternative. The draft EA and draft finding of “no significant impact,” dated July 2003, are available for review at the Grand Forks Public Library, 2110 Library Circle, Grand Forks, N.D., 58201.

Public comments on the EA will be accepted for the next 30 days. Written comments and inquiries on the EA should be directed to Ms. Heidi Durako, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron/CEVA, 525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd., Grand Forks AFB, N.D., 58205-6434. Ms. Durako can be reached by telephone at (701) 747-4774, via facsimilie at (701) 747-6155, or via E-mail at heidi.durako@grandforks.af.mil.

Public Notice: deer bow hunting applications

The base will be accepting deer bow hunting applications per Grand Forks Air Force Base Instruction 32-4004. All active-duty military, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and their dependents who can legally hunt in the state of North Dakota are eligible to apply for permits and participate in the hunting activity.

Permit applications will be available in the environmental management office, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron/CEV, and can be submitted through Aug. 8. Permits will be issued on a lottery basis for approximately one-month at a cost of \$10.

Hunting location is at the extreme northwest corner of the base outside the perimeter fence. All participants in the archery deer season on base are required to have a North Dakota hunting license with a valid deer bow hunting license and a base hunting permit in their possession.

For details, call Ms. Heidi Durako at 747-4774.

OPSEC tip

There are many countries and organizations that would like to take a bite out of American interests. It’s possible and not unprecedented for spouses and family members of U.S. military personnel to be targeted for intelligence collection. Even in America!

Be alert. Be careful. Protect critical information.

Free tax preparation assistance

The base legal office is offering free tax preparation assistance for both federal and state personal (not business) income taxes. To schedule an appointment, call the base legal office at 747-3606 to schedule an appointment.

MFH occupant inputs

Housing occupants who would like to provide comments (positive or negative) regarding the performance of either the housing maintenance or the housing management contractor should contact the quality assurance office at 747-6912 or 747-4758.

USAF honor guard elite team graduates 37 from base, region

By 1st Lt. Rob Lazaro
Public affairs

A four-member team from the U.S. Air Force honor guard mobile training team stationed at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C., visited here July 14 through 18 as part of a 15-month tour through 14 bases.

Their mission of training and standardizing 37 local honor guard members from across North Dakota and Minnesota on performing military funeral honors left little time for area sight-seeing.

However, they did leave plenty of time on the itinerary for hefty servings of pushups and drills to fine-tune the members that serve throughout the tri-state region.

Air Force honor guard mobile team members Staff Sgt. Paul Harrison, team chief, Staff Sgt. Zachary

Crawford, colors instructor, Staff Sgt. Sanjuana Vasquez, firing party, and Airman 1st Class James Taylor spent the majority of their visit ensuring the right number of counts, pace and timing were combined with professional appearance and team solidarity by the end of the training sessions. The days were long, and even the most veteran of the honor guard trainees learned new ways to improve.

“People may have been taught different ways to do (honor guard) details,” said Airman 1st Class Serita



Photo by 1st Lt. Rob Lazaro

Thirty-seven airmen graduated July 11 from the Air Force Honor Guard's mobile training team standardization class.

USAF Honor Guard Creed

Handpicked to serve as a member of the United States Air Force Honor Guard, my standards of conduct and level of professionalism must be above reproach, for I represent all others in my service.

Others earned the right for me to wear the ceremonial uniform, one that is honored in a rich tradition and history. I will honor their memory by wearing it properly and proudly.

Never will I allow my performance to be dictated by the type of ceremony, severity of the temperature, or size of the crowd. I will remain superbly conditioned to perfect all movements throughout every drill and ceremony.

Obligated by my oath I am constantly driven to excel by a deep devotion to duty and a strong sense of dedication.

Representing every member, past and present, of the United States Air Force, I vow to stand sharp, crisp, and motionless, for I am a Ceremonial Guardsman.

Bennett, 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron, who has been a member of the base honor guard for more than a year. “They make sure everyone does it the right way.”

The class concluded with an evaluation and graduation July 18 where Sgt. Harrison stamped their achievement with an approving, “Huah!”

Confident and trained, the new graduates are eager to showcase their newly polished performance, and with Labor Day just around the corner, their opportunity will not be far away.

“The duty the honor guard performs for the Air Force is an important one,” said Col. Steve Wayne, 319th Air Refueling Wing vice commander.

“It takes up to 20 honor guard members to perform a military funeral, so it’s important that more of our folks become involved, and that their supervisors give them time to train and participate in honor guard activities.”

Base CGOA names four new officers

By 2nd Lt. Kristy Herman
319th Logistics Readiness Squadron

On July 18, the base Company Grade Officer's Association held their annual elections, and four new officers have stepped up to fill the positions.

2nd Lt. Kristy Herman from the 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron is the new president, 1st Lt. Glen Smith from the 319th Operations Support Squadron is the new vice president, 1st Lt. Cynthia Shuler from the 319th Communications Squadron is the new executive vice president, and 2nd Lt. Kyle Kruger from the 319th Civil Engineer Squadron is the new treasurer.

While there has been a change of hands in CGOA leadership, the primary focus remains centered on the association's three-tiered mentoring program.

These three programs, the O-6 shadow program, field grade/company grade officer mentoring and youth mentoring, played a huge part in the base's CGOA winning the highest award available. The Western Region Company Grade Officer Council of the Year was accepted by the base CGOA at the national conference earlier this summer.

In addition to continuing these important programs, the association will carry on the previously set goal of at least one professional development trip, one service project and one social each quarter.

Over the past year, the base CGOA participated in some outstanding opportunities for mentoring

and involvement, including trips to Cavalier Air Force Station and the Fargo Air National Guard, lunch with distinguished visitors, and volunteering at the Grand Forks Mission.

Recently, the association hosted three socials for Air Force Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets visiting the base, giving them the chance to talk with company grade officers about being an officer.

On July 25, the CGOA held its 3rd annual professional development trip to the 1st Canadian Air Division/NORAD Regional Headquarters in Winnipeg. Thirteen CGOs spent the day touring the facilities, learning about Air Force personnel exchange programs and the Canadian Air Forces, and meeting with Brig. Gen. Andrew Dichter, Deputy Commander of the Canadian NORAD Region.

There are plenty of opportunities for CGOs to get involved, beginning with monthly meetings, usually held the last Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in various locations throughout the base.

On Aug. 9, the CGOA will be holding a car wash at Leever's on Washington Ave., Grand Forks. The following week, the CGOA will participate in the annual bed race during the Summer Bash.

Anyone interested in participating in either of these events can contact any one of the staff members.

Currently, the CGOA is nearly 100 members strong and constantly growing.

For details about becoming a member or other CGOA questions, visit the CGOA webpage on the base intranet site.



Photo by Ms. Annette Albrecht

First and foremost

Senior Master Sgt. Chris Anthony, United States Air Force First Sergeant functional manager, briefs base members about the role of a first sergeant and today's Air Force during his visit here last week.

Farmer's Market host Air Force



Photos by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

The base showed an active presence at the Farmer's Market in Grand Forks Saturday.

(Left) Staff Sgt. Garry Richard, base honor guard, assists Airman Krizia Young with some last minute tidying up of the uniform prior to a flag folding ceremony at the Farmer's Market.

(Above left) Staff Sgt. Dan Casetta, 319th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and MWD Avar, show off their stuff to the Farmer's Market crowd as Staff Sgt. Jason Haley, 319th SFS MWD handler, plays guinea pig.

(Above right) Airman 1st Class Eric Ryan, 906th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, assists one of his peers with donning of the flight suit at the Farmer's Market in Grand Forks Saturday.



In memory of

Airman 1st Class

Alexander Folgar

Airman 1st Class Alexander Folgar, 319th Maintenance Squadron, passed away July 24.

Airman Folgar was born May 12, 1979, and graduated from high school in June, 1997. He joined the military May 12, 2002, and graduated from the Aerospace Ground Equipment Apprentice technical training course in November, 2002. Airman Folgar arrived on station Dec. 10, 2002.

The men and woman of Airman Folgar’s flight remember him as a friend and confidant to many who was a joy to be around. He enjoyed playing video games and comuputers, and robotics was one of his primary interests.

The Air Force has not only lost a valuable asset, but a true friend to those that were fortunate enough to have met him.

To make contributions, contact Master Sgt. Kevin Flickinger, 319th Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant.

Base chapel

CATHOLIC:
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.
Weekday Mass: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11:30 a.m., Sunflower Chapel.
Reconciliation: 4:30 to 4:45 p.m. Saturday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel.

PROTESTANT:
Traditional worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.
Contemporary worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.
Young Adults: Postponed until Aug. 15, Chaplain Swain’s home, 747-4359.
Men of the Chapel Bible Study: Cancelled this week.

JEWISH:
For details call Sheila Farquharson at 594-3960 or Synagogue B’nai Israel at 775-5124.

RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:
For details, call Dr. Levitov at 780-6540.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:
For details, call 747-5673.

Base theater

Today, 7 p.m. <i>The Hulk (PG-13)</i>	Aug. 8, 7 p.m. <i>Charlie’s Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13)</i>
Saturday, 3 p.m. <i>From Justin to Kelly (PG-13)</i>	Aug. 9, 7 p.m. <i>28 Days Later (R)</i>
Saturday, 7 p.m. <i>Alex and Emma (PG-13)</i>	
Sunday, 3 p.m. <i>The Hulk (PG-13)</i>	Aug. 15, 7 p.m. <i>Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (PG-13)</i>

Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults
For details, call 747-3021/6123.



Lt. Col. Leslie Burns
912th Air Refueling Squadron
commander

What do you expect out of the airmen in your squadron?

I expect them to do the best they can in the most insignificant of tasks. If they can achieve a quality work ethic in the small stuff, then

they will have the discipline to give their best in the more important requirements.

I also expect them to learn to forgive themselves and their peers for the human mistakes that will be made and move on with a positive attitude.

What should the airmen in your squadron expect out of you as their new commander?

They can expect me to seek their input, acknowledge and reward their achievements, help them to learn from mistakes, and be honest with them.

They can also expect me to give as much of myself as I expect from them.

If you could sit down and talk with every single airman in your squadron, what is the one thing you'd tell every single one of them?

I'd tell them to always think of their lives in the long view. Today will pass and tomorrow will come, in spite of the difficulties of the present.

Understand that you can move on successfully from today's mistakes if you keep an optimistic view of life.

Who are your leadership role models?

Dr. Martin Luther King comes to mind immediately - a man

inspired and destined to restore dignity to millions who gave his life in the process.

From another perspective - I admire Helen Keller. She exemplified the resilience of the human spirit - the ability to transcend complete darkness and overcome the most abysmal circumstances with joy.

What does it mean to you to be a squadron commander?

It means that I am privileged to lead the greatest professionals in our country. It means I get to be a part of their lives in a very significant way.

That is an awesome responsibility. I'm deeply honored to be entrusted with it.

Mid-shifters keep the base running so you can sleep easy

By Maj. Joan Fournier
319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Acting commander

It's Oh-dark-30, and phones are ringing all around base. It's exercise time again. Lights are coming on; coffee is brewing... You and I can wipe the sleep out of our eyes with a comforting confidence that the first responders are already in place ready and alert for whatever the day has to offer.

Who are they? They are the midshifters - those people who come on shift after most of us are home tucked in bed for the night. Those people who bear the worst the North Dakota winters can throw at them on the most unpredictable and longest shift on the clock. There are a handful of these individuals around the wing, but the ones I know the best are the aircraft mechanics.

When word of a world crisis, disaster, emergency, or exercise comes in, the midshift flightline aircraft maintainers are already in place - trained and trusted to quickly make decisions.

They start the generation actions that will set the wing up for success or failure. Always in control of the situation, a master sergeant production superintendent can immediately judge which aircraft can be generated the quickest, and which ones should be towed out of the way. He then has immediate communications with flightline support agencies to set his plan in motion.

Two flightline expeditors direct their assigned maintenance personnel to efficiently accomplish all the necessary tasks. They are troubleshooting, repairing, towing, inspecting, servicing and configuring the aircraft to meet any required mission.

But these individuals do not work only when an exercise is near - they work every night fixing aircraft that were not mission capable when you went to sleep, inspecting those that are scheduled to fly the next day, completing the paperwork, putting in new sets of forms for the next flight, cleaning, and training to keep their skills sharp.

Our seasoned maintainers have spent their share of time on all shifts. Some are volunteers, because it eases the child care responsibility for spouses that work, or because of the autonomy they have to take care of business. Others were put there to balance out the shifts, or to benefit from the unique training opportunities that shift offers on what we call, "hard-broke" aircraft - aircraft that need extensive troubleshooting or disassembly to bring them back into commission.

Once they have experienced it, most say it's a good shift. Because of the smaller numbers assigned, it tends to be a very close-knit shift with everyone really looking out for each other.

"You have to, or you could freeze to death," one airman admitted.

But it's not just the safety aspect, it's textbook

teamwork and comradery in action. They also like the relaxed atmosphere of mids that allows them to share details about how the aircraft systems work and to go put eyes on unique things co-workers find. There just isn't time to do that on days in the structured routine of the launches. Midshift is never routine.

But of course, nothing is perfect. These flightline warriors, when asked about the down side of working at night, will always start off the conversation with, "Well, it's cold in the winter!"

Actually, since winter is a couple months away yet, I did get one to say the worst thing right now is being the midnight snack of choice for the local mosquito population (I was naïve enough to think evening was the worst time of the day for mosquitoes, but I was quickly corrected).

Always quick of wit, and rarely ones to complain seriously, the only issue one gentlemen had was, "They no longer have the (two-piece fried chicken) 'box nasty' at the (in-flight kitchen) for midnight chow."

So tonight as you rest, your duties done for the day, say a prayer for those who keep the lights on and the aircraft ready.

My special thanks to Senior Airmen Mike Senay and Tom Lucero, and Staff Sgt. Greg Barrett for their contributions to this article.

Gear Up!

Generating excellence in aircraft readiness

By Chief Master Sgt. Steven Hall
319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Line chief

The men, women and families of the 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron have responded proudly and professionally to all that they are asked to do. There are lots of taskings that have to be supported, and not all are large deployments.

There is homeland defense, exercises, and training that continue while part of the squadron is deployed, not to mention preparing for higher headquarters inspections.

The workload is great, however the 319th AMXS warriors are ready to go at a moments notice.

AMXS provides the backbone for air power in the area of responsibility. Without tanker support, fighter aircraft would not have the fuel to make it to their targets or AOR. Airlift would not be able to keep the air bridge open to keep our forward operations resupplied.

As you can see, the 319th AMXS provides aircraft that play an integral role in the defense of our nation.

These deployments have many obstacles to be overcome. Many of the locations that we are deployed to are bare base. These conditions take a toll on members as they adjust to living without conveniences that we have come to enjoy.

Getting up and getting dressed to go take a shower, not being able to go to a

restaurant for a meal or having to wait for some of the basic necessities to be brought in. When you need parts you have to wait for special airlift to bring them instead of just dropping them into Federal Express overnight shipment.

But, everyone does his or her part and overcomes these barriers to make deployed life the best it can be.

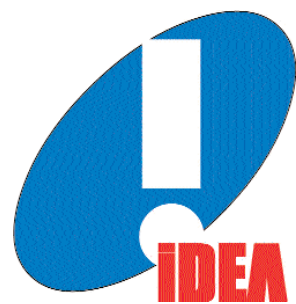
With so many members deployed, those left behind have to continue to make it all happen here at home. They have to keep up the pace with fewer aircraft and personnel. The rotations for weekend duty come up more often as do the shorter temporary duty assignments.

With such a high operations tempo in the 319th Air Refueling Wing you would think that the morale of the troops would be low, but in the short time that I have been here, I have seen a squadron with great morale. There are always situations that cause stress for the member or the families, but there seems to be a good support network in the squadron and on base to help where needed.

I believe being deployed during the summer months takes a greater strain on the families as this is the time for vacations with the family.

All said and done, the men, women and families of the 319th AMXS are outstanding examples of Air Force professionals. They are the epitome of integrity, service before self and excellence in all that we do.

It's **YOUR**
Air Force
With your **IDEAS**,
we do things



♦ **FASTER** ♦ **BETTER** ♦ **CHEAPER**

Community

Today



CLUB DINING: The Frontier Grill summer menu is available for dining.

BEFORE, AFTER SCHOOL

PROGRAMS: Registration for the youth center’s before and after school programs for children in grades kindergarten through 6th runs through Aug. 15. Parents need to bring their child’s current shot record, a current leave and earnings statement for all working parents, Air Force Form 357 (if a military member), and an individual education plan if the child has special needs.

For details, call the youth center at 747-4042.

FALL CLASSES REGISTRATION:

Registration for the youth center’s fall classes runs throuh Aug. 15.

Classes include:

Piano - 6 and older, held on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 8 p.m., and Thursdays from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$12.00 per half-hour session.

Karate - 6 and older, held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m.

Adults, held Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$3 per one-hour session.

Gymnastics - 3 and older. Dates, times, and cost are yet to be determined.

Dance - 3 and older. Dates, times, and cost are yet to be determined.

Also, the youth center is looking for a guitar instructor.

For details, call the youth center at 747-3150.

CHEERLEADING CLASSES:

Registration for the youth center’s fall cheerleading classes runs through Aug. 15.

Classes begin Sept. 9 at Liberty Square and are held every Tuesday and Thursday for ages 6 and 7 from 6 to 8

p.m. and ages 9 to 12 from 7 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$3 for a one-hour class session.

Classes are limited to a maximum of eight participants.

Class instructor is Mrs. Kassy Johnson.

SUMMER CAMPS: The youth center is holding volleyball camp Monday through Aug. 8, karate and golf camps Aug. 11 through 15, and the Missoula’s Children Theater Aug. 18 through 22.

For details, call the youth center at 747-3150.

Saturday

JUNIOR BIKE RACE: The Warrior of the North Junior Bike Race begins at 10 a.m. at FamCamp with Registration at 9:30 a.m.

Age categories include:

4 and younger - Big wheels, tricycles

6 and younger - Bicycles with training wheels, bicycles

7 to 8 - Bicycles

9 to 11 - Bicycles

12 to 14 - Bicycles

15 to 18 - Bicycles

Helmets are mandatory.

For details, call outdoor recreation at 747-3688.

Monday

ORIGAMI NIGHT: The youth center is holding Origami fun night free for ages 6 to 12 at 6:30 p.m., and ages 13 to 18 at 7:30 p.m. Participants will learn the history and function of Origami, and how to make some of the animal shapes, or create their own.

Tuesday

N.D. HUNTER EDUCATION, SAFETY: Outdoor recreation is holding a free North Dakota hunter education and safety class Tuesday through Aug. 9.

Class times are 5:45 to 9:15 p.m. Tuesday through Aug. 8 and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 9.

This class is required for those born after Dec. 31, 1961, who want to hunt in North Dakota. The class covers firearms safety, ethics, conservation and North Dakota hunting laws. Class size is limited.

For details, call outdoor recreation at 747-3672.

Wednesday

VALLEYFAIR TRIP: Register by Wednesday for outdoor recreation’s trip to Valleyfair Aug. 9

Cost is \$45 for transportation and park admission.

Transportation depart at 5 a.m. from outdoor recreation and returns the same evening around midnight.

Thursday

LIBERTY SQUARE OPEN SKATING: Liberty Square offers open skating from 3 to 5 p.m. for ages 6 to 18.

Cost is \$2 for admission and \$1 for skate rental. The teen center will not be open at these times.

GEOGRAPHY BEE: The youth center is holding a geography bee for ages 9 to 12 at 6:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 8 p.m.

Upcoming

FINE ARTS PROGRAM: The youth center’s next free fine arts program class is Aug. 13 for ages 6 to 12 at 6:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 8 p.m.

This program is meant to provide members with the opportunity to create works of art for display in a local exhibit.

The goal is to help youth uncover their artistic talents, motivate them to develop their creative skills and possibly explore related career opportunities.

Heir Force

Logan Scott Hohlt, 7 lb., 8 oz. boy, was born May 24 to Airman 1st Class Daniel and Kristin Hohlt, 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Evan Richard Aman, 8 lb., 2 oz. boy, was born June 11 to Airman Zakary and Kelsey Aman, 319th Maintenance Squadron

Juan Miguel Lu, 6 lb., 2 oz. boy, was born June 20 to Staff Sgts. Laura and Juan Lu, 319th LRS and 319th Communications Squadron

Henry Eli Haraldson, 5 lb., 14 oz. boy, was born June 21 to Airman 1st Class Mitchell and Jennifer Haraldson, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Julie Marie Silva, 7 lb., 13 oz. girl, was born June 23 to Senior Airman Shawn and Angela Silva, 319th AMXS

Logan Peter Louis Cascanett, 10 lb., 5.5 oz. boy, was born June 27 to Senior Airman Louis and Rebecca Cascanett, 319th CS

Gavin Stone-Eugene Liston, 6 lb., 2 oz. boy, was born June 29 to Senior Airman Matthew and Jenny Liston, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Liberty Square is looking for volunteer skate guards and DJs. Skate guards must be at least 13-years-old, and DJs must be at least 16-years-old.

There will be a meeting on Aug. 15 from 5 to 6 p.m. at Liberty Square for new volunteers. Returning skate guards need to attend as well.

Behind the scenes

Rarely in the spotlight, maintainers keep jets ready

By Senior Airman Joshua G. Moshier
Public affairs

National news networks show eye-catching views of bombers and fighters lighting up the skies over Iraq. After all, infra-red images of bombs and missiles hitting their targets and casting magnificent explosions are what many people like to see, such as Fourth of July fireworks.

The average American viewer probably doesn't know much more about what goes into those strikes than that final product. In other words, they are unaware of the means to the end.

Many of those viewers may not realize how much fuel is required to get the bombers and fighters from point A to point B and back again. They are perhaps naïve to the importance of air-refueling and tankers to the overall fight - least of all to the aircraft maintenance crews entrusted to keep those tankers (some of which are over 40-years-old) ready for flight 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week and 365-days-a-year.

The life of an aircraft maintainer is practically void of accolades and recognition outside of the Air Force. It is not likely a crew chief or specialist will be the subject of a national personality feature anytime in the near future.

Still, maintainers are as equally important to our ongoing operations abroad as anyone involved. Without them, the tankers would be grounded, meaning no air-refueling capabilities for the fighters and bombers, meaning no bombs over Baghdad.

Senior Master Sgt. Philip Alerding, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron lead production superintendent, recently returned from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Alerding's travels brought him to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, and Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, where he was part of a team of maintainers directly involved with the recent war.

"We're responsible for deploying, launching, recovering and fixing these aircraft," Sgt. Alerding said about the role of aircraft maintainers in a deployed, wartime environment. "That takes a lot of people. We had 54 maintainers assigned to seven airplanes in Incirlik, and during surge operations, we worked around the clock without a break."



He said maintaining smooth operations was a must. "To make this operation work, we relied on the skills of all our maintainers working in unison," he said.

The versatility of each maintainer on the road is crucial in maintaining the high sortie rates demanded in a wartime environment. Aircraft maintainers carry one of a variety of Air Force Specialty Codes - crew chiefs, engines, electrics/environmental, communications/navigation, guidance and control, hydraulics, and back shop maintainers such as sheet metal, fuel cell and more. However, Sgt. Alerding explained maintenance crews are rarely deployed with a full complement of maintainers.

"Often, crew chiefs and specialists have to assist each other in their duties," he said. "That makes (receiving training in both career fields) very important. It always seems like something that never goes wrong with an airplane at home will go wrong at a deployed location, so they need to be ready for anything."

Maintainers are faced with other obstacles, as well.

"Normal supply channels are far away," Sgt. Alerding said, "and there are customs issues as well. Because of that, we have to work very closely with supply."

"Base relations are important, too. There are some locations that are ready to go. Then there are some locations that have nothing but tents and an airfield, and we have to get things rolling right away. However, since (the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001), we've become very adept at operating from bare-base locations."



Photos by 1st Lt. Rob Lazaro

Combine those obstacles with the longer duty days, extra responsibilities and magnitude of the mission they are supporting, and wartime deployments can prove to be very stressful.

"For short periods of time, stress can actually be a good thing," Sgt. Alerding said. "It can help keep guys focused and channel their energy toward doing the job. Of course, too much stress can be detrimental."

That's when supervisors need to step in, he said.

"Often, aircraft maintainers will be the last ones to tell you they need a break," said Sgt. Alerding. "That's a

concern. When people work too hard, they're prone to making mistakes, and in this job mistakes can cause serious injury, or worse."

He also said more is being expected out of younger airmen in the career field than was the case 10 years ago.

"We have fewer numbers today than back then," Sgt. Alerding said. "This is a high-paced job. It's tough on first-term airmen to step into this environment. There's a lot of pressure to get properly trained and be a productive member of the team. Because of that, they may have to deploy to properly learn their job."

"Operations here are like a scrimmage. When you go into a deployed environment, it's the Super Bowl."

**-- Senior Master Sgt. Philip Alerding,
319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
lead production superintendent**



(Far left) Senior Airman Michael Velasquez, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, marshals in a KC-135 into a parking space.

(Center, above) A 319th AMXS member takes cover from the heavy rain while another surveys to see what repairs are needed. Rain or shine, the mission rolls on.

For the most part however, these young airmen have produced.

"We've got three-levels and new five-levels with more responsibility today than ever before," he said. "They've deployed overseas to a wartime environment and got the job done. They've responded well."

Even though they aren't often the subjects of all the glitz and glamour of television and the media, aircraft maintainers are aware of just how vital they are to the mission. They don't need to see their faces or actions on primetime broadcasts to bask in a success-

ful mission, either. Their biggest joy is seeing their work pay off.

"Watching the jets take off and knowing that we play such a crucial role in making it all happen is our reward" Sgt. Alerding said. "It's about knowing we are a key factor in ensuring coalition aircraft perform their mission flawlessly."

And with that flawless execution, national news will have more infra-red images of enemy strongholds going down in flames.

Base varsity soccer team competes with state's finest

By Cadet Tony George
USAFA

The base varsity soccer team is no stranger to stiff competition.

The team traveled to Bismarck July 12 and 13 to participate in the Prairie Rose State Games. Teams from all across North Dakota showed up for the chance to play against some of the best competition in the region.

The base team played their first game Saturday morning and ended up with a 4-4 tie.

Warriors' goalkeeper Anthony Langford said, "Our defense played well, but fatigue set in late in the game, and the other team took their chances to tie the game."

Walking away from the game with a win would have been ideal for the team, especially with another game in the doubleheader day starting within an hour. Rebounding from disappointment, the team rallied together and prepared to face their next opponent.

In the second game of the day, the team faced a very rough and physically tough opponent.

The game proved to be a real battle, and was inevitably decided by some small mistakes in the defense that ended up hurting the Warriors tremendously on the scoreboard. The first two games were fairly high scoring, and the second also brought lots of goals with the base team falling 4-2 to Bismarck's 'Boys from Brazil.'

On the following day, having worked out most of the bugs from the previous two matches, the Warriors went out to prove they were capable of competing at the state level by winning their match.

However, this was easier said than done as the Warriors found themselves down by a goal shortly after the starting whistle.

After the surprise of the first goal, the Warriors

began to retain ball possession dominance over their competitors from Fargo.

Methodically searching for seams in the defense, the Warriors were rewarded by a break-away goal from midfielder Carlos Pindaflares midway into the first half.

The base team also caught their opponents asleep during the closing seconds before half-time with a quick re-start throw in from mid-fielder Rob Lazaro for a second goal by Pindaflares.

Throughout the tournament, midfield passing and striker finishes proved to be an uplifting force for the team.

Lazaro said of the offensive play in the tournament, "We finally got some offense from (Pindaflares) in the midfield and forward Mike Murphy, which we've been lacking all year."

Pindaflares finished the two-day tournament with five goals and numerous other plays that helped propel the team performance, while Murphy added three.

"Our defense was also solid with the back line of John Reeks, Amanda Cone and Jeff Naylor," said Lazaro.

At the end of the weekend, the Warriors won one, tied one, and lost one game each to finish in fourth place out of six teams. The winners of the tournament were the Bismarck Hookers.



Courtesy photo

Warriors' midfielder Carlos Pinedaflares handles the ball during the Prairie Rose State Games in Bismarck July 12 and 13 as defender Mike Jilliland looks on.

"It's never easy for the base team to perform as well as other teams in the state because they have played together for years," said Lazaro. "This added advantage of consistency helped the other teams get off to a better start while our team was still trying to get its field chemistry going."

Although work schedules, temporary duties, and permanent change of stations have continually hurt the base team all year, the Warriors are finally getting more new players on base and rebuilding the team.

The Warriors have a few more matches scheduled for this summer and hope to improve upon their performance at the Prairie Rose. Gaining experience from each tournament will only help improve their chances in future matches.



Hoop Dreams

The Deek's basketball team from base recently took home the gold in the Commercial I Division at the Prairie Rose State Games in Bismarck July 12 and 13 with an 81-76 victory over the Bismarck Stallions (made up of the 1999 and 2000 North Dakota State Class A High School Men's Basketball Champions) in the title game.

Team members were (from left to right): Coach D.J. Lemelle, Rob Gallegos, Les Johnston, Adonis Ball, Russell Mackey, Soultz Dukes, Matt Wireman, Luke Rowan and Lonnie Cartwright.

Many members of the Deek's are expected to compete for the base's varsity basketball team next season. Varsity tryouts are expected to begin later this month, pending fitness center approval.